

PROGRAM UPDATE



January 21, 2015

*The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Department) continues to accept attestations for the Colorado Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. In Program Year 2012, more than **\$63 million** in incentive payments were made to eligible health care professionals and hospitals for the adoption, implementation or upgrade (AIU) and Meaningful Use (MU) of certified EHR technology and payments for Program Year 2013 total more than **\$48 million** while Program Year 2014 payments total more than **\$4.9 million**.*

Now Open! 2014 Flexibility Rule Update for the CO R&A

The CO R&A is now accepting attestations for the 2014 Flexibility Rule. This allows any EP or EH who did not upgrade their EHR to a 2014 Edition CEHRT due to vendor-caused delays. This rule allows EPs or EHs to attest to 2013 Stage 1 objectives and measures for program year 2014.

For more information on the 2014 Flexibility Rule, click [here](#) to watch a short webinar.

For a reminder of the 2013 Stage 1 objectives and measures, click [here](#). To review the 2013 Clinical Quality Measures, click [here](#).

Extended Deadlines for the 2014 Program Year

Deadlines for EPs and EHs to finish and submit attestation for 2014 have been extended. Please note that these deadlines will not be moving, so please plan accordingly.

- EH 2014 deadline: Saturday, February 28, 2015 at 10:00 pm MT
- EP 2014 deadline: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 10:00 pm MT

Reminder - Attesting to Menu Objectives in 2014 – Using Exclusions to Reach Meaningful Use

At the release of Stage 2 in 2012, CMS stated that if an EP needed to take an exclusion for any of the MU Menu Objectives, they were required to answer all nine instead of the required five. CMS has since changed these guidelines and suggests that all EPs attest to as many as they can before taking an exclusion; however, exclusions are allowed. The CO R&A is currently programmed to accept Menu Objectives in 2014 as per the original guidelines and will not be updated before the end of the program year.

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Because all EPs must attest to one public health measure, Colorado EPs are faced with a challenge because many are still in the queue for the immunization registry integration. That challenge no longer exists because, as stated above, CMS has changed their guidelines. The challenge now exists with attesting to five Menu Objectives in the CO R&A.

The Department has developed a work around for all EPs who need to take an exclusion on one or more of their Menu Objectives in 2014. Please note that EPs should only take exclusions where valid and should report on all Menu Objectives without exclusion if they can do so.

For an explanation and a copy of a new required document for attesting with an exclusion to Menu Objectives in 2014, click [here](#).

Timeline for Program Year 2015

At the release of the 2014 Flexibility Rule, there were many questions raised about the length of the EHR Reporting Period for 2015. At the time of publication, no further changes have been made to the EHR Reporting Period requirements for 2015.

CORHIO has updated the [Attestation Timelines for Eligible Professionals](#) document to help EPs determine where they are in the program and how long their EHR Reporting Period should be for 2015.

One important thing to note is that, regardless of the calendar year, all EPs and EHs attesting to MU Stage 1 for the first time are only required to attest with a 90-day reporting period. All other years of MU must be a full year.

Updated Anticipated Timeline – Colorado Medicaid EHR Incentive Program

Event	Status/Expected Date
CO R&A System begins accepting Medicaid & Medicare Meaningful Use attestations	Now Open!
CO R&A System opens for EHs to attest to Meaningful Use for FFY 2013	Program Year is now closed
CO R&A System opens for EPs to attest to Meaningful Use for calendar year 2013	Program Year is now closed
First incentive payments issued to EPs who successfully attested to Medicaid Stage 1 Meaningful Use	Paid!
First incentive payments issues to EHs who successfully attested to Medicaid Stage 1 Meaningful Use	Paid!

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CO R&A System opens for EHs to attest to 2014 Stage 1 and Stage 2 Meaningful Use for FFY 2014	Now Open!
CO R&A System opens for EPs to attest to 2014 Stage 1 for program year 2014	Now Open!
CO R&A System opens for EPs and EHs to attest to 2013 Stage 1 Objectives for the 2014 Flexibility Rule	Now Open!

Medicaid Program Point of Contact and Partnerships

The Department has partnered with CORHIO to provide program coordination and assist with provider communications and outreach regarding the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. The Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Coordinator will be the central point of contact for EPs, EHs, partners and other interested parties on requirements, processes and questions regarding the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. The Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Coordinator, Tracy McDonald, can be reached at MedicaidEHR@corhio.org or 720.285.3232.

Xerox (formerly Affiliated Computer Services) has been contracted by the Department to manage the Provider Outreach Page and to provide the Colorado R&A System, including the web portal through which eligible providers can register and attest to receive the EHR incentive payments.